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## NORTHEAST GETS DOWN TO "BRASS TACKS" IN PLANNING FOR COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS THIS FALL

In preparation for the community committee election meetings to be held this fall and in anticipation of further gearing up of the United States Department of Agriculture's food-for-defense program, representatives of States in the Northeast Region of the AAA held two educational conferences in August which resulted in a series of basic recommendations.

Working independently, the two conferences arrived at practically the same conclusions on the ways and means of helping community committeemen obtain a greater degree of participation and improvement in the functioning of the agricultural conservation program. The meeting at Hamilton, N. Y. August 4-9 was attended by AAA men from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, with the closing sessions given over to a meeting of representatives from 55 New York county committees. The New England States met at Wells Beach, Maine, August 11-14.

Highlights of the two conferences were:

1. Community committee elections may be improved by building them about community dinners followed by motion pictures -- mainly *Harvests for Tomorrow* -- and entertaining speakers.

2. While attractive programs for the elections are a strong secondary inducement to attendance, there is no substitute for personal contacts prior to the meetings. If all committeemen take an active part by calling on their neighbors and pointing out the importance of the meeting and follow this with last minute reminders -- possibly by telephone -- an increasingly large number of well-attended meetings will result.

3. Where possible, pre-election meetings should be held in the community to discuss the application of the ACP to the community, the procedure of the coming election, and the duties of the offices to be filled.

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4. While the community meetings are the responsibility of the community committeemen, the county committee should do all within its power to assist. This assistance might take the form of meetings of community committeemen before and after elections to acquaint the community men with details of the farm program, particularly as it affects the community committee.

5. As a means of keeping community committeemen informed of the latest developments in the program, the county committee might consider the establishment of news letters to all community committeemen.

6. All community committeemen should be invited to attend the county convention even though only delegates may vote.

7. With respect to the Government's food-for-defense program, it is recommended that replacement stock be retained and that very close culling be suspended to aid and maintain an increased production of dairy products.

8. The April 3 announcement of the USDA placing a floor under dairy prices has been beneficial in bringing about an upward trend in dairy prices.

9. County and community committeemen should discuss with farmers the possibility of storing larger supplies of feed on the farm and a gradual increase of stored feed reserves should be effected.

10. The county committee should study the use of superphosphate and, in the event defense priorities make the rationing of superphosphate necessary, should urge farmers to use superphosphate first with manure, second in preparation for new seedings, third on established pastures, and last, on established hay land.

11. In view of food-for-defense program needs, poultrymen should be urged to develop the production of their plants to capacity, but there should be no expansion of plant or hired help.

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*"...As we think, we are going to have to ask questions that go to the very roots of our social order -- how can consumption equal our increased capacity to produce? The way we have been operating doesn't answer that question. Millions of people are still unable to buy those things that would make for a decent standard of living...Our economy doesn't pump around the necessary buying power. Our economy operates in a descending spiral, not in an ascending spiral. It has a constant tendency to run down and we must provide a dynamic factor, for our economy and the problem of poverty must be met."*

--Paul H. Appleby, Under Secretary of Agriculture, speaking at the National AAA Conference in Washington, June 10, 1941.

## DECENTRALIZATION SPEEDS FUNCTIONING OF ACP IN NORTHEAST ON THREE FRONTS

Beginning September 1, States of the Northeast Region will assume new responsibility for fiscal work in accordance with the decentralization recently effected by the AAA.

The decentralization will have at least three important effects on the functioning of the agricultural conservation program in the States:

1. Most important of all from the standpoint of the average farmer-cooperator, the new setup will make it possible to mail out checks to Northeast Region farmers within 3 to 4 weeks after the individual farmer signs his application for payment. This cuts the present time almost in two. Final examination by the AAA will be completed in the State offices, and the General Accounting Office audit will be made in Hartford, Conn., for New England and New Jersey, in Harrisburg for Pennsylvania, and in Ithaca for New York. Checks will be mailed from the regional disbursing office of the Treasury in New York City. All of these functions were previously performed in Washington.

2. Personnel in State offices engaged on a per annum basis will be paid on the pay period -- an achievement not always realized in the past. The new system makes it possible to prepare the per annum payrolls in State offices and send them on to the New York City disbursing office prior to pay day. This office will be able to send the pay checks to State offices more promptly than was possible previously.

3. Northeast counties will have their county association accounts returned several days earlier than heretofore. This time saving will be made possible by the shifting of the final auditing of county association accounts from divisional headquarters in Washington to the various State offices.

The administrative changes involved in decentralization will reduce the Washington office force by about 30 persons. Except in New York and Pennsylvania, the new work in State offices is being undertaken with very little increase in personnel. Washington personnel will be offered positions in State offices or placed with other agencies in Washington.

## FUTURE OF AAA

*"I see the Triple-A of the future as an organization guarding farm prices and income, guarding the land for the farmer and the nation, organizing supplies for the good of the nation, modifying the trend to large-scale farming, promoting shifts to economic sized farms, improving the lot of all who farm, and helping bring about increased consumption so essential to the functioning of our economic system. It is our means of helping our generation to build the kind of world we want. I see the Triple-A of the future as a great force for the preservation of democracy. In my opinion Triple-A will be one of the chief means of keeping America on the right track during the next few years. Ours is a grave responsibility. We can only rise to it by facing the facts, and by acting. Let us not be afraid of the future; and let us always be an action agency". -- R. M. Evans, USDA Press Release, June 10, 1941.*



## NEW YORK DEVELOPS PLAN TO BRING STATE, COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN INTO MORE DIRECT CONTACT

A plan designed to bring State and county committeemen into a more direct relationship, which will provide a two-way exchange of information to the mutual interest of both, was developed by New York committeemen at the recent Hamilton, N. Y., information meeting.

The 55 counties of New York State were districted so that all have been specifically assigned to members of the State committee. Realizing the time-saving to be gained from geographical groupings, each State committeeman has been assigned counties nearest to his home.

As outlined at Hamilton, the plan calls for State committeemen to assume more definite responsibilities for the counties in his district. Each State committeeman will establish closer contacts with county committees and, in collaboration with the farmer fieldmen, will assist county committeemen in any way necessary to obtain maximum program benefits on individual farms. Under this setup, each State committeeman will be better able to bring the problems of the farmers in his area to the attention of the State office.

Similarly, the county committees will inform their State committeeman of significant developments in agricultural conditions and sentiments within the county.

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE RE-DISTRICTS COMMUNITIES, CUTTING NUMBER OF FARMERS IN EACH

Realizing the necessity of bringing the farm program as close to farmers as possible, New Hampshire county committeemen are now completing a State-wide survey of the 39 communities of the State. The purpose is to re-define the communities so that each one includes not over 150 active farmers.

As a result of the study, the number of communities in New Hampshire may be increased from 39 to 50 or 60. Because of the value of contacting farmers in smaller groups, other farm groups are watching the AAA community study with great interest.

The importance of New Hampshire's redefinition of community boundaries was stressed by Earl P. Robinson, New Hampshire Executive Assistant, since it is desirable to get as close to participating farmers as possible so that information relative to new developments in the farm program may be speedily passed on to farmers.

In advancing his suggestion to county committees, Mr. Robinson indicated that natural centers of community activity, rather than similarity of farm interests, constitute the most important element in the establishment of community boundaries.

It is expected that the new community areas will be completed in time for fall community committee elections.